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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 DAMASCUS 000195

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ELA NSC FOR SHAPIRO/MCDERMOTT  
PARIS FOR WALLER, LONDON FOR TSOU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/12/2029 TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IR](#) [IS](#) [SY](#)

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Classified By: CDA Maura Connelly for reasons 1.4 b, d.

1. (S/NF) Summary: Providing a lengthy review of Syria's 30-year relations with Iran, Muallim denied Syria's dependence on Iran and said Damascus  
On Iran's nuclear program, Muallim said he had advised FM Solana to drop the Five-plus-One group's three-tier demands on Iran to suspend enrichment

2. (S/NF) Acting NEA A/S Jeffrey Feltman and NSC Senior Director for the Near East and North Africa Dan Shapiro met for three-and-a-half hour

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Syrian Interests in Relations with Iran  
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3. (S/NF) Summing up a lengthy presentation on Syria's 30-year relationship with Iran, Muallim asserted Syria's position was motivated by Israel

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Engaging Iran: Syrian and U.S. Perspectives -----

4. (S/NF) At the request of French President Nicholas Sarkozy, Syria had discussed Iran's nuclear program with Tehran, according to Muallim. Mu

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about the need for greater transparency. This discussion needed to take place under the auspices of the IAEA, rather than in the UN Security Council

5. (S/NF) Feltman replied there was a lack of confidence among various countries concerning Iran's intentions and Iran had a long way to go before

6. (S/NF) Muallim said that a U.S. decision to engage Iran was a positive sign, while noting Tehran's reaction thus far had been negative. He

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Arab Concerns about Iranian Intentions  
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7. (S/NF) Feltman replied that he was not using this meeting to make any accusations against Syria, but the broader issue was how to deal with

8. (S/NF) Currently, Syria was working to assure Arab regimes of Iran's desire for cooperation and to convince Iran of Arab good will and vice versa

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said he had talked to his Saudi and Egyptian counterparts as well and had agreed to exclude any Iranian presence at the Doha conference. 9. (S/NF)